



Literacy: Promoting Reading, for Learning and Fun!

When a child learns to read independently, that skill unlocks the door to a whole new world of information and imagination. And, especially in today's "information age," reading becomes the foundation for much of what that child will learn throughout his or her life. Yet a large proportion of children in our Minnesota communities are failing to develop the literacy skills they will need to succeed. What can we do as parents to ensure that our children become competent and enthusiastic readers?

I. The foundation of literacy is language development, so talk to babies long before they can talk back

- Talk to babies, long before they can talk back
Describe what you're doing, point and name interesting objects, imitate your baby's sounds (first conversations), put words on their feelings
- Introduce child to the FUN of language: songs, poems, silly sounds
- Ask "why," "how," and "what if..." questions of your young children

II. Introduce the printed word early

- Read to your child beginning in infancy (but follow their cues; don't push!)
- Read part of a story and have child make up an ending
- Have child dictate story to you, then illustrate their own "book"
- Build on child's natural interests, keep it FUN!
You want the child to WANT to read not HAVE to read
- Let child see YOU reading, for information and pleasure!